



# 2020

ANNUAL REPORT

U.S. Congressman  
**DUTCH**  
**RUPPERSBERGER**  
Proudly serving Maryland's 2nd District



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# INTRODUCTION



Like the lives of most Americans, the office and service of Congressman C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger was dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic and economic fallout during 2020. Dutch and his team remained laser-focused on helping Second District families and businesses weather the storm, above all else. Team Dutch helped Marylanders access aid including unemployment benefits and stimulus checks, while guiding small businesses through the application process for critical grants and loans. Dutch hosted two telephone town halls, personally distributed protective equipment and supported legislation providing resources to hospitals, schools and our first responders.

Still, the pandemic did nothing to slow assistance to constituents with more routine needs, such as seniors who need help navigating Social Security

and Medicare, veterans who can't access their benefits and struggling families facing foreclosure or eviction. Team Dutch was there for each and every citizen – more than 2,900 of them – who contacted us for assistance this year.

And, despite the volume and gravity of needs back at home, Team Dutch scored legislative victory after victory on Capitol Hill. As a member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, Dutch secured hundreds of millions of dollars in resources for Maryland and the Second District. He authored and passed banner legislation that will reduce the cycle of violence in communities like Baltimore and protect America's shorelines – including those along the Chesapeake Bay. He continued to champion solutions to increasingly aggressive cybersecurity threats, especially at the state and local level.

Through it all, Congressman Ruppertsberger maintained his trademark common sense, pragmatic approach. Elected to serve a tenth term, Congressman Ruppertsberger looks forward to providing the citizens of the Second District with best-in-the-nation constituent service and responsive legislative trouble-shooting.



# CONGRESSMAN RUPPERSBERGER HELPS SECOND DISTRICT WEATHER THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Congressman Ruppertsberger and his team worked tirelessly to assist Second District constituents during the initial shock of the COVID-19 pandemic. He immediately created a COVID-19 resource page on his website, with information regarding closures, testing sites and the virus itself. He held telephone townhalls featuring medical doctors and public health experts at the state and local level, reaching more than 16,700 people. Dutch hand-delivered supplies to our frontline heroes, including food to local healthcare workers, masks to the Y of Central Maryland and even sanitizer to Baltimore City police officers.

Dutch decided to keep staff in both the District Office in Timonium, Maryland, as well as the Capitol Hill office each day throughout the pandemic so that constituents could speak directly and immediately to an employee about their concerns.

Both offices quickly became inundated with calls from constituents who had questions about the virus, about school and business closures and what government was doing. By the end of the year, the office will have fielded more than 23,000 pandemic-related calls and emails.

In Washington, Dutch supported every relief bill considered on the House floor, including the:

- **Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act**, which provided \$8.3 billion, mostly for medical supplies, surge preparation and the development of vaccines;
- **Families First Coronavirus Response Act**, which provided sick and quarantined workers with two weeks of emergency paid leave and tax credits for employers to provide up to three months of paid time off for extended absences;



Congressman Ruppertsberger poses with the "Safe Streets" community organization in Baltimore after delivering hand sanitizer to local residents.

- **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES);** a \$2.2 trillion bill that provided stimulus checks directly to American families, increased unemployment benefits, forgivable loans to small businesses under the Paycheck Protection Program as well as critical aid to state and local government;
- **Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act (PPP),** which provided another \$3 trillion to re-fund the depleted PPP and other small business assistance programs as well as resources for hospitals, health systems and frontline workers;
- **Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act (HEROES),** which provided \$3 trillion for state and local governments, hazard pay for essential workers, billions for testing and contact tracing, a second round of stimulus payments to Americans and an extension of supplemental unemployment benefits. The bill passed the House but never received a vote in the Senate;
- **Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021,** which served as a vehicle to provide an additional \$900 billion in COVID-19 relief. The bill included another round of stimulus checks to American families, small business loans, supplemental unemployment benefits and an extension of a moratorium on evictions. The legislation also included \$69 billion to distribute vaccines and implement a comprehensive testing and tracing strategy.



Congressman Ruppberger delivers face masks to the Y of Towson.



Congressman Ruppberger delivers food donated by a local business owner to healthcare workers in Randallstown.

## Ruppberger holds second phone town hall to address coronavirus, people in need



| April 1, 2020

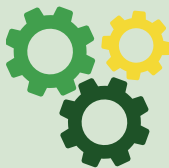
## CONSTITUENTS HELPED DURING COVID-19



**\$367,490,665+**  
LOANS FOR MD-02  
SMALL BUSINESSES



**\$22,161,900**  
UNEMPLOYMENT  
BENEFITS RECOVERED  
FOR MD-02 FAMILIES



**82,654**  
(AT 6,490 BUSINESSES)  
JOBS SAVED  
THROUGH PPP LOANS



**16,753**  
CONSTITUENTS WHO  
PARTICIPATED IN  
TELETOWNHALLS



**1,400+**  
UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS  
CASES RESOLVED



**75**  
ISSUES WITH STIMULUS  
CHECKS RESOLVED



# CONGRESSMAN RUPPERSBERGER INTRODUCES LEGISLATION PROVIDING HAZARD PAY TO FRONTLINE HOSPITAL WORKERS

From day one of the COVID-19 pandemic, our nation's healthcare heroes began running head-long into the fire, including Dr. Joseph Costa, who directed the critical care unit at Baltimore's Mercy Medical Center. He treated COVID-19 patients before dying of the disease himself in July.

Congressman Ruppertsberger believes those on the frontlines like Dr. Costa, who assumed extraordinary risk to themselves and their families in order to keep the rest of us safe and alive, should be justly compensated. He proudly introduced the Dr. Joseph J. Costa Honoring Essential Americans Risking Their Safety (HEARTS) Act to provide hospital workers – including doctors, nurses, specialists and non-medical staff, such as custodians, who work in close proximity to COVID-19 patients – with an additional \$225 a month. This is the same amount American troops deployed in combat zones receive as “hostile fire” pay. Congressman Ruppertsberger will continue to champion this legislation in 2021.



# CONGRESSMAN RUPPERSBERGER TACKLES MAIL DELAYS AMID COVID-19 OUTBREAK

The global coronavirus outbreak pandemic combined with the presidential election created a perfect storm for the United States Post Office, which faced unprecedented demand for mail-in ballots and package deliveries. Congressman Ruppertsberger and his team heard from scores of constituents who did not receive their paychecks, medications and other critical deliveries for weeks during the pandemic.

Dutch visited post offices in the district to listen to both customers and employees. He also met with the Baltimore Postmaster and leadership from the local postal union. He voted in favor of

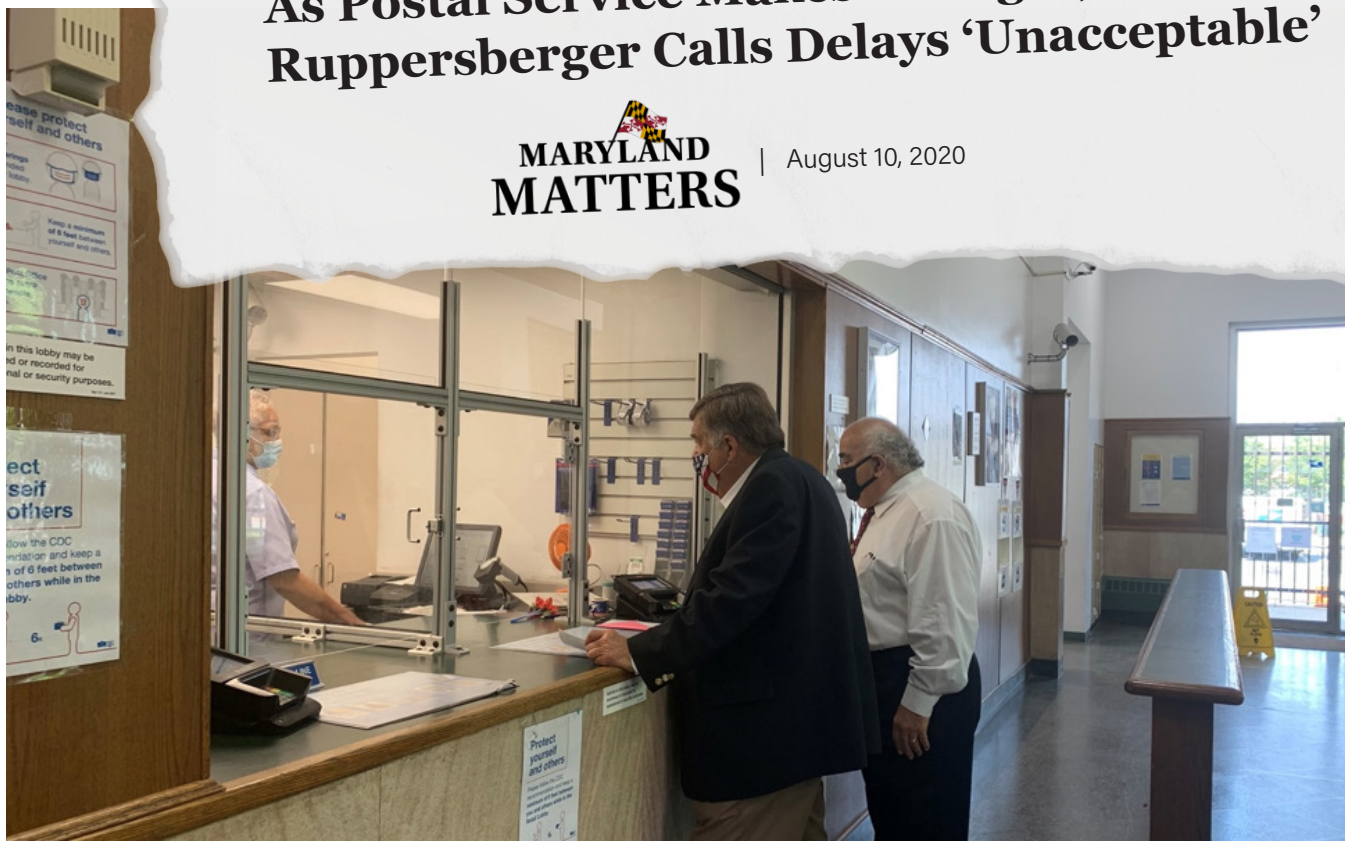
legislation reversing operational changes made by the Postmaster General – such as ending overtime and removing mail processing machines – and providing USPS with \$25 billion in emergency funding. In fact, he called for an inspector general investigation into the President's influence over the postal service heading into the election and asked the Postmaster General – a major fundraiser for President Trump – to testify before Congress.

Moving forward, Dutch will continue to champion the USPS, which is a constitutionally-mandated public service and lifeline for all Americans.

## As Postal Service Makes Changes, Ruppertsberger Calls Delays 'Unacceptable'



| August 10, 2020





# CONGRESSMAN RUPPERSBERGER HELPS JOBLESS MARYLANDERS ACCESS CRITICAL BENEFITS

With the help of Congressman Ruppertsberger's support, Congress greatly strengthened unemployment benefits for Americans who lost their job as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This included an extra \$600 per week in supplemental federal unemployment benefits in addition to state benefits. Congress also authorized an additional 13 weeks of benefits and expanded eligibility to include self-employed Americans, independent contractors and "gig workers."

In December, Congress again passed supplemental unemployment insurance to the tune of \$300 a week, along with another round of stimulus checks and an extension of a moratorium on evictions and foreclosures for struggling families.

But the volume of new applicants quickly overwhelmed Maryland's unemployment system, creating a backlog that numbered tens of thousands. Dutch and his colleagues in Maryland's Congressional delegation intervened, directly assisting constituents with the application process and pressuring the Maryland Administration to fix the claims system and deliver benefits to desperate Marylanders. In all, Team Dutch would assist more than 1,400 Second District constituents with unemployment claims.

**Maryland congressional leaders  
urge Gov. Larry Hogan to make more  
improvements to unemployment website'**

THE BALTIMORE SUN | June 10, 2020

“

I am sending my heartfelt thanks to your office, specifically Jasmine, for helping me—actually, saving me—get my problems with the Maryland Unemployment Insurance addressed and expedited. Her kindness and willingness meant so much and because of her, I was able to buy food and pay rent. Because of you, you made things happen!”

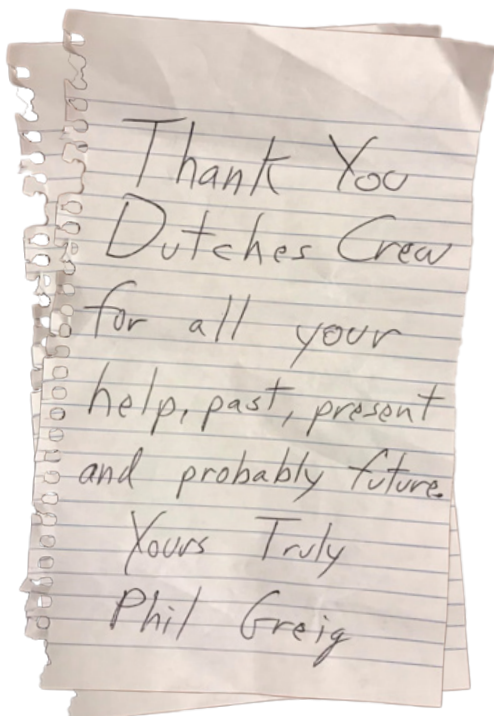
AMY  
FROM TOWSON

# CONGRESSMAN RUPPERSBERGER CONTINUES TO PRIORITIZE CONSTITUENT SERVICE

Congressman Ruppertsberger got into politics for one reason – to help people – and has always taken pride in his constituent service operation. He believes his casework team is among the best in the nation. While working tirelessly to help constituents weather the COVID-19 pandemic, Team Dutch continued to conduct the day-to-day business of helping seniors navigate Social Security and Medicare, connecting veterans to their benefits, assisting families facing foreclosure and much more.

*"I want to thank you so much for your help. I received my benefits. I was so overwhelmed when I found out that I laughed and cried. Thank you for assisting me and pointing me in all the right directions and giving me your time. I could not have done it without your suggestions and help."*

— **Cindy from Towson**  
**Social Security Disability Issue**



## CONSTITUENT SERVICES OVERVIEW



**\$1,521,251**  
**TAX DOLLARS RECOVERED  
FOR CONSTITUENTS**



**34,096**  
**RESPONSES TO  
CONSTITUENT PHONE CALLS,  
EMAILS AND LETTERS**



**2,900+**  
**RESPONSES  
TO CITIZEN  
HELP REQUESTS**

*"Just wanted to let you know that the full \$60,000 was deposited into our son's checking account this morning from the Social Security Administration. I give you full credit for helping break this loose. It was a pleasure talking with you and you have restored my faith that Congress can actually get things done for constituents."*

**— Mike from Perry Hall**  
**Workers Compensation Case**

*"I cannot thank you enough for your time, effort, and understanding. I truly believe we would still be fighting this, and unable to get our mortgage, without your help. It is truly appreciated."*

**— Albert from Rosedale**  
**VA Loan Issue**

## CASEWORK SPOTLIGHT



THANK YOU  
DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER  
AND MS. ASHLEY MEYER!

After a cluster mailbox in one Parkville community was damaged, residents were forced to visit their local post office to pick up their mail. After attempting to resolve the issue for several aggravating months, local resident Lauren called the office of Congressman Ruppertsberger and was connected with Team Dutch's Ashley Meyer.

Working with the Postal Service, Ashley was able to have the cluster mailbox replaced in short order.

*"Dutch Ruppertsberger's office was a delight to work with in a frustrating situation. They were empathetic and worked quickly to get a resolution. Thank you so much Dutch Ruppertsberger and your amazing staff!"*

**— Lauren from Parkville**



# CONGRESSMAN RUPPERSBERGER DELIVERS FOR MARYLAND AS AN APPROPRIATOR

Congressman Ruppertsberger continued to serve on the powerful House Appropriations Committee, which is responsible for allocating hundreds of billions of federal dollars each year. He sits on the Defense, Legislative Branch and the Homeland Security subcommittees.

Dutch works hard to leverage his role as an Appropriator to ensure Maryland and the Second District gets its fair share of the pie – and 2020 was a very successful year. Congress passed spending bills that will have a lasting impact on our own communities.

## APPROPRIATIONS SPOTLIGHT: HELPING FIGHT CRIME RESPONSIBLY IN BALTIMORE CITY

In July, Congressman Ruppertsberger successfully fought for funding to support police reforms across the country through his role on the Appropriations

Committee. The House approved \$400 million for this purpose, including \$7.2 million specifically to help state and local law enforcement comply with federal consent decrees. The Baltimore City Police Department has been under a consent decree since January 2017 after a Department of Justice report detailed systemic, repeated violations of the constitutional rights of residents. Baltimore's police department has been making great progress on its consent decree, but these agreements are extremely heavy lifts that take money to implement.

The City will now be eligible for financial help, thanks to Dutch's advocacy. Ultimately, this federal funding will help police departments like Baltimore City's end discriminatory practices, increase training and strengthen civilian oversight and transparency. It will help restore trust between officers and the people they are sworn to protect not just here in Baltimore, but in communities across the country.



## Ruppertsberger adds money for police reform to funding bill

The Avenue News | June 20, 2020  
avenuenews.com

## MARYLAND FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS

**\$87 MILLION**

**FOR THE CHESAPEAKE BAY,  
WHICH THE ADMINISTRATION  
TRIED TO ELIMINATE ENTIRELY**

**\$516 MILLION**

**FOR PROJECTS SUPPORTING  
MARYLAND'S MILITARY ECONOMY**

Including projects at Fort Meade,  
National Security Agency, U.S. Cyber Command  
and Aberdeen Proving Ground in the Second District

**\$60 MILLION**

**TO PROTECT MARYLAND'S  
ENVIRONMENT AND KEEP  
COMMERCE MOVING**

Through the Chesapeake Bay and Baltimore Harbor

**\$135 MILLION**

**INCREASE FOR HEAD START**

Which provides early learning opportunities  
for thousands of Maryland families

**\$5 MILLION**

**TO BEGIN A TELEHEALTH  
PROGRAM FOR THE CHILDREN  
OF MILITARY FAMILIES**

Based at Baltimore's Kennedy Krieger Institute

**1% PAY RAISE  
FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES**

128,000 of which live in Maryland

**3% PAY RAISE  
FOR TROOPS**

**\$224 MILLION**

**INCREASE OVER THE  
PRESIDENT'S BUDGET INITIATIVE  
FOR CYBERSECURITY EFFORTS**

Benefitting our national security and  
Maryland's cyber-focused economy

**\$75 MILLION**

**TO RESEARCH SPINAL CORD AND  
ORTHOPEDIC INJURIES**

Benefitting Maryland medical institutions

**\$100 MILLION**

**FOR THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE'S  
ROAD REPAIR PROGRAM**

Part of which will be steered to the  
Baltimore-Washington Parkway

**\$2 MILLION**

**FOR A MAGNETIC LEVITATION  
RAILWAY CONNECTING BALTIMORE  
AND WASHINGTON, DC**

**LANGUAGE LIFTING THE  
H-2B VISA CAPS, BENEFITTING  
MARYLAND'S SEAFOOD INDUSTRY**

**FULL FUNDING FOR DEPARTMENT  
OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

Labs located at Aberdeen Proving Ground and  
Fort Detrick, Maryland, repeatedly targeted for  
elimination by the Administration

# FROM WASHINGTON, CONGRESSMAN RUPPERSBERGER PRODUCES RESULTS FOR THE DISTRICT

Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger spent much of his time on Capitol Hill working with colleagues from both sides of the aisle to get results for Maryland and the nation. While legislative work was dominated by COVID-19 relief measures, Dutch also helped the House pass critical appropriations bills, a massive infrastructure investment package and landmark police reform.

Dutch pledged to work with and support President Trump wherever possible – but also hold him accountable when he couldn't. In January, Dutch cast a difficult vote to transfer two articles of impeachment to the U.S. Senate after President Trump refused to allow his aides to testify and withheld documents that had been subpoenaed during House proceedings. "I am a former prosecutor," Congressman Ruppersberger said. "But you don't need a law degree to know that a trial without access to evidence and testimony is no trial at all."

Despite the pandemic and near-constant political discord between Congress and the White House, Dutch had a record year in terms of his own legislative priorities. The House advanced three of Dutch's original bills, including passing two in two days:

## THE DIGITAL COAST ACT

After introducing it each of the last 10 years, the House finally passed Congressman Ruppersberger's Digital Coast Act, which will allow for a comprehensive mapping of the nation's shorelines where current maps are outdated or even nonexistent. Coastal communities like those along the Chesapeake Bay are home to 42



**8**  
**SPONSORED BILLS**

**7**  
**BIPARTISAN  
SPONSORED BILLS**

**431**  
**COSPONSORED  
BILLS**

**63**  
**BIPARTISAN  
COSPONSORED  
BILLS**

**237**  
**NUMBER OF  
VOTES CAST**

**98.30%**  
**VOTE  
ATTENDANCE  
RECORD**

percent of our country's population and millions of businesses that supply most of our gross domestic product. These communities will be able to use the data collected under the bill to prepare for storms, manage floods, restore ecosystems and plan smarter developments near America's coasts, harbors, ports and shorelines.

## THE BIPARTISAN SOLUTION TO CYCLICAL VIOLENCE ACT OF 2020

The House also passed Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger's bipartisan bill to address the revolving door of violent crime across our nation,



including in cities like Baltimore. The Bipartisan Solution to Cyclical Violence Act of 2020 is modeled off a highly successful program at the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center, where 20 percent of participants are victims of violence. These patients receive a bed-side assessment, counseling and wide range of support that could include groceries, bus money, substance abuse treatment, job training or affordable housing guidance. Patients have shown an 83 percent decrease in re-hospitalization due to intentional violent injury, a 75 percent reduction in criminal activity and an 82 percent increase in employment.

Dutch's bill will provide \$10 million in federal grants to hospitals that want to expand or create programs like Shock Trauma's. This bill will help victims of violent injury before they become repeat victims or even perpetrators themselves. In doing so, we end the cycle and keep money in the

American taxpayer's pocket. This legislation is also vital to our efforts to shift social work away from police and first responders, and back to the experts in mental health, substance abuse, homelessness, unemployment and other areas that often afflict victims of violent crime.

## STATE AND LOCAL CYBERSECURITY IMPROVEMENT ACT

As a former Baltimore County Executive, Congressman Ruppertsberger knows firsthand the countless challenges state and local governments face. Hackers are increasingly targeting these entities, as we learned from a devastating ransomware attack against Baltimore City Public Schools in 2019 that suspended critical services and cost the city more than \$18 million. More recently, hackers targeted Baltimore County Public Schools which have been relying on a digital learning system throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite the increased threat, close to half of state and local governments across the country do not have a dedicated cybersecurity budget line item. That's why Dutch wrote the bipartisan State and Local Cybersecurity Improvement Act, which establishes a grant program to provide states with the resources to address vulnerabilities and address cybersecurity threats. The bill passed the House in September.



### Ruppertsberger introduces legislation to help local governments address cybersecurity vulnerabilities

THE BALTIMORE SUN | February 11, 2020

“

State and local governments are grateful for Congressman Ruppertsberger's unfailing support of municipal governments and the public services we provide in our communities. His straightforward approach and commitment to bipartisan solutions through the House Municipal Finance Caucus provides the leadership we need on the unique issues we face. As Co-Chairman, Mr. Ruppertsberger leads a team of Members of Congress from across the country dedicated to strengthening the \$4 trillion municipal bond market that supports our communities' infrastructure needs – including schools, water systems and roadways.”

EMILY SWENSON BROCK,  
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL  
LIAISON, CENTER FOR  
THE GOVERNMENT  
FINANCE OFFICERS  
ASSOCIATION

## CONGRESSMAN RUPPERSBERGER LEADS HOUSE MUNICIPAL FINANCE CAUCUS TO BANNER YEAR

As a former County Executive, Congressman Dutch Ruppertsberger co-founded the House Municipal Finance Caucus in 2016 as a forum to protect the tools used by states and local governments to independently fund community projects, from roads to libraries to firehouses. The caucus' mission became even more critical as state and local governments face historic revenue losses and unexpected expenses amid the COVID-19 outbreak. In May, Dutch and caucus members asked the U.S. Treasury and Federal Reserve to support the municipal secondary market and fully re-open the primary municipal market in response to the pandemic.

In July, the House passed a major infrastructure investment package that included Dutch's legislation restoring the tax-exemption for advance refunding bonds, which are often used by state and local governments to pay off another, outstanding bond to finance infrastructure projects. The change enables governments to take advantage of lower interest rates, similar to homeowners refinancing their mortgages. The use of tax-exempt advance refunding bonds saves taxpayers an estimated \$2.35 billion a year and frees up resources for other community improvements, such as new police stations, schools and roads.

The caucus looks forward to introducing two new vice-chairs in the coming year to breathe new life into its efforts – which may seem technical on paper, but have the same, simple goal of saving tax dollars.

### Municipal Finance Caucus urges Fed to expand muni purchases

THE BOND BUYER | May 4, 2020

# SAYING GOODBYE TO A FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE

In November, Team Dutch said goodbye to its long-time Outreach Director, Michael Baker. Michael was a beloved colleague and friend and his sudden passing was a challenging time for Congressman Ruppertsberger and his small, tight-knit staff.

A Baltimore native, Michael graduated from Dulaney High School in the district and earned a Bachelor's Degree in biology from Pennsylvania State University in 1979. A lifelong nature lover, he worked at Yellowstone National Park before returning home and beginning a career in public service that would eventually span four decades.

Michael was first hired by the late Baltimore Mayor William Donald Schaefer as an employee of the Department of Recreation and Parks. After nearly 21 years with the City, Michael made the leap to federal government, working as an outreach representative for the now-retired U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski for three years. In 2005, Dutch hired Michael as his Outreach Director.

Over the next 16 years, Michael became a well-known fixture in the community as he traveled to events throughout the district on Dutch's behalf. He was an outstanding writer and stood out for his ability to connect with constituents on a personal level. Michael touched the lives of many through his work, but it was his easy-going and affable nature that will be missed by so many who knew him. He shared his sense of humor with friends and strangers alike.

Though he had no children of his own, Michael adored kids and the affection was mutual, including those among the Team Dutch family. He was a wealth of knowledge about birds and wildlife and loved telling stories about his cats and days at Penn State. He was a decent and kind man who dedicated his life to bettering his community. And we're all better for having known him.





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U.S. Congressman

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RUPPERSBERGER**



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